



# Working Together for Children and Young People in Wakefield

## Our promise...

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Partners in Wakefield are committed to working together to achieve a positive future for children and young people across the district. Together, we want Wakefield to be a vibrant, healthy, safe and culturally diverse place to live, work and visit. The current and future success of our children and young people is a fundamentally important part of being able to achieve this. We recognise that the health and wellbeing of children and young people is directly related to the wider health and wellbeing of families and communities throughout the district. Together, we will be ambitious for our children and young people and play our part in keeping them happy, healthy, and safe.

To enable this to happen, partners in Wakefield promise to;

### **Make the voice of the child a central part of the way in which we design and deliver services. Partners will endeavour to;**

- Always consult with young people when they are undertaking equality impact assessments on anything that may affect them, giving careful consideration to the most appropriate mechanism or groups that need to be consulted.
- Recognise the diversity of voices across children and young people in the district when making decisions about the way we deliver services.
- Actively involve all children and young people, including those for whom we are corporate parents, in designing services that best meet their needs.

### **Provide meaningful opportunities for children and young people to gain useful skills and experience, setting them up for a successful future. Partners will endeavour to;**

- Provide good quality, well supported apprenticeship opportunities and paid internships.
- Provide young people living in the district with work experience opportunities.
- Support strong links with children and young people and partners to gain broader life skills, education and experiences, for example by participating in role modelling schemes or activities that go beyond the role of traditional educational settings such as schools or colleges.

**Support Children in Care to be healthy, happy, safe and ambitious. Partners will endeavour to;**

- Give thought to how the organisation can reach out to, or support children in care as corporate parents.
- To create opportunities for children in care to gain skills and experience, setting them up for a successful future, recognising that they will benefit from the same opportunities as other young people, but may individually need additional support to do so.

**Support all children and young people to feel safe. Partners will endeavour to;**

- Support awareness raising campaigns on a range of issues effecting children's safety, for example online safety or child exploitation. Other emerging safety issues will be considered in consultation with children and young people themselves.
- Where in a position to do so, lead or support them to have safe and stable places to live, where they feel happy and settled.
- Encourage signposting across a range of services aimed at keeping children and young people safe.
- Support the Young People's Safeguarding Charter.

**Acknowledge that emotional and physical wellbeing is a crucially important aspect of a child or young person's quality of life. Partners will endeavour to;**

- Ensure children, young people and their families are signposted to the right emotional wellbeing and mental health services and support wherever possible.
- Consider how their organisation can contribute to easy access for children and young people to cultural and leisure activities.
- Consider how the impact on children and young people can be maximised when promoting the 'Five Ways to Wellbeing'.

**Become foster and adoption friendly organisations. Partners will create the right conditions within their organisations to allow employees to pursue fostering or adoption. They will also positively support employees once they have taken on one of these roles. Partners will endeavour to;**

- Actively promote foster caring and adoption within the workplace and participate in promotional events where possible.
- Make information about how to become a foster carer or how to adopt, available on noticeboards, intranet sites or internal publications.
- Support and facilitate information and briefing sessions such as workplace briefings from the Council's Fostering Service.
- Consider allowing employees an agreed amount of time off work to attend initial foster carer training.
- Recognise that there may be times when an employee who has caring responsibilities may have to respond to an unplanned situation that occurs at short notice requiring them to be absent from work.
- Provide foster carers with the same access to emergency leave as parents, and recognise fostered / kinship care children as dependants.

## **To make sure we do the things we have pledged to do in this promise.**

### **Partners will;**

- Have strong, effective, transparent partnership, leadership and governance
- Provide services that are high quality, evidence based and integrated as far as possible. Services will be delivered at the right time and in the right place to meet the needs of children and young people.
- Provide evidence to support the publication of an annual report, highlighting what partners are doing to contribute towards delivering the ambitions presented in this promise.

### **Reviewing our promise...**

- This promise will be reviewed annually, however comments from partners will be gathered throughout the year and will inform the next review of the promise.

## **This document is supported by...**

We, the undersigned, on behalf of our respective organisations, will deliver the promises outlined in this document;

Cllr Peter Box, Chair, Wakefield Together Executive and Leader of Wakefield Council  
Merran McRae, Chief Executive, Wakefield Council  
Jo Webster, NHS Wakefield Clinical Commissioning Group  
Wakefield District, West Yorkshire Police  
Wakefield District, West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue  
Chief Executive, Wakefield District Housing  
Regional Director, Department of Work and Pensions, West Yorkshire Branch  
Director of Public Health, Wakefield Council  
Corporate Director, Children and Young People's Services  
Principal, Wakefield College  
Chair, Wakefield NOVA, the representative body for the third sector in Wakefield

We, the undersigned, on behalf of our respective partnership bodies, support the delivery of the promises outlined in this document;

Chair, Community Safety Partnership  
Chair, Health and Wellbeing Board  
Chair, Children and Young People's Partnership Board  
Independent Chair, Wakefield District Local Safeguarding Children's Board  
Independent Chair, Wakefield District Safeguarding Adults Board